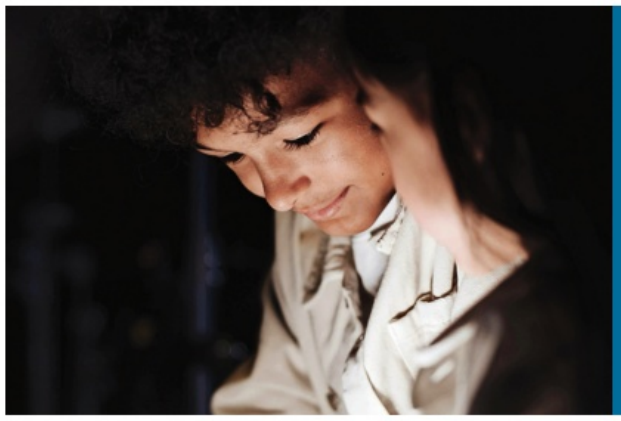
BENGALURU, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2024 www.Bangaloremirror.com 16 Pages PRICE ₹4

Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

TEMP Max 25 | Min 21 | Humidity 55% Partly Cloudy Sensex 79,802 | Nifty 24,131 | Gold 76,309 | Silver 89,141 | Dollar 84.63 | Euro 89.34 | GBP 107.31



NO CHILD'S PLAY

Health professionals in city discuss if Oz step of ban on social media platforms for children is right way forward

PAGE 2

DEADLY ROAD

Overall number of accidents on Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway has decreased, but rise in fatalities alarming

PAGE 7

In 2023, a total of eight cases of cyber fraud involving individuals posing as TRAI representatives were reported; by October 2024, this number had surged to 48

TRAI-L & ERROR

Senior citizens most vulnerable, police initiatives aim to train, educate

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PIC FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY

Two weeks ago, a 53-year-old gentleman received a strange call. The voice on the other end introduced herself as a Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) representative. What followed was an excruciating few hours of conversation, during the course of which the man ended up losing Rs 11.4 lakh from his bank accounts.

The victim, Anil (not his real name) received the call from a person identifying herself as Preeti Verma, a 'Customer Care Service' representative from TRAI. Claiming that an FIR had been filed against him for harassment through illegal advertising and text messages, she provided detailed false information, including an FIR number and an address in Kandivali West, Mumbai.

The call was "escalated" to a man named Rahul Sharma, who introduced himself as a Senior Enquiry Officer with the Ministry of Telecom. Sharma further connected the call to another fraudster impersonating a Mumbai Police officer. The so-called officer accused Anil of being involved in a money laundering case linked to over 240 arrests.

He alleged that Anil had opened a fraudulent account in a private bank and threatened immediate arrest and freezing of all accounts unless he complied with instructions.

Fraudsters created a sense of fear and constant pressure for the victim and his wife to transfer ₹11.4 lakh via RTGS to a fraudulent account. The stress of the situation not only affected the couple but also their 16-year-old son, who experienced severe anxiety and required medical attention.

The police have registered a case on November 23 under

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 »

> **"With the increasing number of senior citizens falling victim to such frauds, we are focusing on educating them about the basics of cyber safety**
>
> — Police official

No stopping axing of trees

After tree panel nod to remove 440 trees for K-RIDE work, experts say green cover should be on top of mind at design phase

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Karnataka Rail Infrastructure Development Company Limited (K-RIDE) has received a green signal from the Tree Expert Committee (TEC) for the removal of 440 trees from Jalahalli to carry out work on its second corridor, extending from Benniganahalli Railway station to Chikkabanavara railway station.

The work was put on hold after the High Court, in August, put a stay on the previous order passed by TEC that had permitted K-RIDE to axe 699 trees, including the 440 trees in question. However, TEC's order was put on hold by HC after receiving a petition from a city-based nonprofit. Following the petition, the HC instructed TEC to reassess 440 trees in the project area, as highlighted in the petition.

The petition was filed by Bangalore Environment Trust after going through TEC's first order, granting permission to fall 699 trees. "Objections were raised for 440 trees as reasons cited by TEC in its report to remove these trees were not convincing. TEC is supposed to inspect every tree and the earlier report did not reflect the same," said Dattatreya Devare, one of the volunteers and trustee of Bangalore Environment Trust.

The court, in its order, had directed TEC to revisit the project site and re-examine the feasibility and permissibility of felling these trees.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 »

3 THINGS TO DO

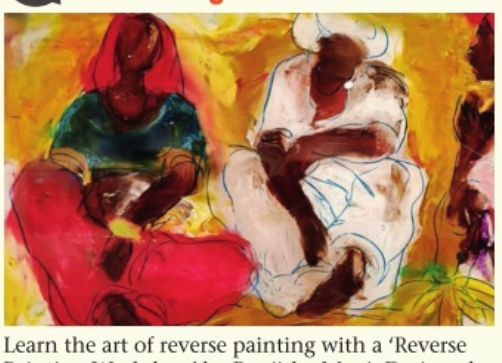
01 Linoleum art

Join in for a 'Linocut Printmaking Workshop' by Rajesh Mani. This outreach event presented by the National Gallery of Modern Art Bengaluru (Ministry of Culture, Government of India) for ages above 15 years is in conjunction with the ongoing in-house curated retrospective exhibition 'Namma Mestru: The Artistic Voyage of JMS Mani' curated by Darshan Kumar YU & Amrutha R, Dy Curator, NGMA Bengaluru. Entry to the workshop is free. **Where: National Gallery of Modern Art, Palace Road; When: November 30, 11:30 am to 3:30 pm**

02 Fam jam

Spend a lovely Sunday participating in 'Winter Bazaar,' a full-fledged bazaar with 55 stalls, all kinds of food, and live music throughout, to name some, performances by Deep Blue Brass Band at 1 pm (jazz & pop), the band DHUN at 7 pm (rock & Bollywood), etc. This year, the Winter Bazaar aims to spotlight and encourage young, amateur musicians—and the response has been truly phenomenal! All proceeds are reinvested into the park for its maintenance and enhancement. **Where: Defence Colony, Indiranagar; When: December 1**

03 Paint it yourself



Learn the art of reverse painting with a 'Reverse Painting Workshop' by Ranjitha Mani. Designed for ages 15 and above, the workshop is in conjunction with the ongoing in-house curated retrospective exhibition 'Namma Mestru: The Artistic Voyage of JMS Mani,' curated by Darshan Kumar YU & Amrutha R, Dy Curator, NGMA Bengaluru. Entry to the workshop is free. **Where: National Gallery of Modern Art, Palace Road; When: December 1, 11:30 am to 3:30 pm**

Is it time to 'log out' for children's well-being?

After Australia bans social media for children under 16, experts call for India to consider similar measures

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Children under 16 are particularly vulnerable due to their lack of awareness & understanding of online risks

Australia has become the first country to implement a nationwide ban on social media platforms for children under the age of 16. This move aims to protect young people's mental health and well-being by addressing the potential harm caused by excessive online activity. The decision has sparked discussions among health professionals in India, who believe such a step could benefit the country's youth.

Dr Edmond Fernandes, Director of the Edward & Cynthia Institute of Public Health in Mangaluru, appreciated Australia's leadership in implementing the ban. "Australia has demonstrated exceptional political will by banning social media for children under 16. This decision secures the future of the country, and the results of this move will be seen in the years to come," he said.

Dr Fernandes further urged Indian policymakers to prioritise children's holistic development. "...Increasingly fewer children in India engage in outdoor games, which is a very bad sign for the country. India must give up the mindset of focusing on culture, religion and social differences and unite for policies that align with progress, safety and health. The time for sacred games is over, and science and health must become the language of politics."

Social media's impact on children

Dr Satish Kumar CR, Consultant-Clinical Psychology, Manipal Hospital, Bengaluru, highlighted the strong connection between excessive social media usage and mental health issues.

"Numerous studies show a direct link between the number of hours spent on social media and mental health problems. Research indicates that mental health issues are more prevalent among young adults than older adults," he said.

Dr Kumar welcomed Australia's decision, saying, "The ban is a highly welcome step. It can save many children from falling into risks associated with social media." He emphasised that children under 16 are particularly vulnerable due to their lack of awareness and understanding of online risks. "Children below the age of 12 or 13 often don't know what they're getting into and can be easily taken advantage of. Issues like sexting, cyberbullying, and exposure to explicit content have negatively impacted many." On the other hand, reducing social media usage has shown significant benefits, such as improved family time, better community involvement, and enhanced interpersonal skills.

Alternative options & suggestions

While supporting the idea of a ban, Dr Fernandes stressed the need for a comprehensive approach. "A ban serves as a deterrent but cannot replace behaviour change communication and resilience building. At our institute we have developed a unique concept called the Brain Resilience Mission (BRM) to strengthen the psychological and emotional resilience of adolescents and young people. This approach focuses on long-term benefits, which many institutions overlook," he added.

However, not all experts agree with a complete ban. Dr. Dayananda Sagar L, Consultant Psychiatrist at Subbaiah Institute of Medical Sciences, emphasised the importance of responsible social media usage. "A blanket ban on social media is not the best solution in a diverse country like India. It limits children's opportunities to express their talents and thoughts. Social media also has positive aspects, such as providing access to educational content," he said.

Dr Sagar suggested alternative measures, such as time-restricted usage and supervised access. "... Educating youngsters about the dangers of social media, like cyberbullying, and informing them about available mental health services can help mitigate risks. Limiting social media usage to one or two hours a day under supervision is a feasible approach."

Lakkasandra anganwadi brightens up again

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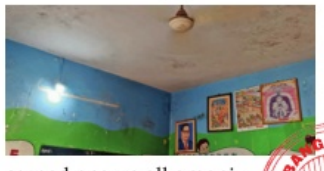

(L to R) Electricity is back; debris has been cleared in the premises; an electricity meter has been installed at the anganwadi centre at Lakkasandra

In what comes as pleasant news, the anganwadi centre at Lakkasandra has now been equipped with electricity and water supply. Now, slum dwellers at Lakkasandra can send their children to the anganwadi centre without worrying about the poor conditions of the centre. The authorities concerned have also engaged people to clear debris dumped in front of the anganwadi centre.

Bangalore Mirror published a story—Children of a Lesser God?—on Thursday narrating how the number of kids going to anganwadi has been dwindling due to lack of electricity and water supply. Child rights activists demanded the authorities concerned ensure all amenities at the anganwadi centre, stating that poor maintenance and such unhygienic conditions are against Article 25 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

Anuradha, an anganwadi teacher at Lakkasandra, stated that now the premise is clean and neat. "I want to thank all those responsible for the restoration of electricity and water supply," she said. "The authorities should not relocate the anganwadi centre at any cost, as it will be inconvenient for slum dwellers to send their children to the anganwadi centre," added Arun Prasad, a social activist.

Nagasimha G Rao of Child Rights Trust appreciated the authorities concerned for their swift action and described it as a commendable step by the department officials. "I do not want any anganwadi centre without basic amenities. I want the authorities to ensure regular monitoring and inspections, which are crucial to avoid such incidents. The officials should conduct surprise visits to anganwadi centres to ensure anganwadi centres meet the required standards," Rao said. He added, "Kudos to Mirror for highlighting this critical issue! As a child-friendly media outlet, BM's setting a great example by bringing attention to the welfare and safety of our children."

Man charged with animal cruelty after battering pet cat

Man alleges his pet cat was kicked, abandoned in empty water tank by his roommate; animal activists push for strict action against accused

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In a heart-wrenching case of animal cruelty, a man's pet cat was beaten and dumped into an empty water tank by his flatmate. The cat is currently under treatment at a hospital in the city.

Mohammed Aftab, residing in BTM Layout, has alleged that his 1.8-year-old cat, named Zaara, was brutally beaten by his roommate, Manish Ratnakar. It is said that the cat, which had urinated in the house, was reportedly kicked multiple times, leaving it with injuries to its face and legs. Ratnakar then threw the injured cat into an empty water tank.

Aftab stated that the cat had been unwell for some time. "I wanted a flatmate, and Ratnakar joined me since he didn't have a house. My roommate was fine with the cat staying here and even agreed to it. He seemed fine with the cat initially, but everything changed that day," he said.

He discovered his injured pet on Tuesday. According to him, on Tuesday (November 26), while he was out in Jayanagar with friends, his roommate called him, upset that the cat had urinated in the room. "He was very abusive over the call. Upon returning, I found the house in disarray and Zaara missing. Ratnakar always had anger issues. He claimed that the cat had scratched him, but my cat has always been harmless," Aftab said.

> **My cat was lying in one corner. Her face was swollen & had turned purple. My roomate admitted to kicking her** — Mohammed Aftab

After a frantic search, Aftab found Zaara in the building's water tank. "She was lying in one corner, bleeding from her face. Her face was swollen and had turned purple. The cat was terrified. When I confronted him, he admitted to kicking her," he said.

Zaara was rushed to a hospital in Jayanagar, where she remains under treatment. Despite repeated requests, the accused refused to pay for the cat's medical expenses. Aftab has filed a complaint at the Mico Layout police station. The police have registered a case, and animal activists are pushing for strict action against the accused.

Tarun Agarwal, President of SAS-Karnataka's Anti-Cruelty Cell, condemned the act. "This inhumane act demands immediate intervention. We urge the police to take swift action under animal cruelty laws. Justice for Zaara is justice for all voiceless beings," Agarwal said. "I received immense support from animal organisations and activists. I want justice for Zaara," Aftab added.

Man booked for sexual harassment

A first information report (FIR) has been registered against Gurappa Naidu, Chairman of BGS Bloomfield School and a Congress MP, for allegedly misbehaving and harassing one of the teachers of the school. According to the FIR registered on Tuesday at Channammanakere Achukattu police, the incident took place between March 1, 2021, and August 15, 2023, at BGS Bloomfield School, Thyagarajanagar.

The complaint was lodged by a 38-year-old teacher stating that Naidu used to harass her by deliberately summoning her to his chamber. "Gurappa Naidu has been misusing women by recording their private moments and threatening them to make such videos public. Most of the women working at the school are from economically weaker families. They were afraid to lodge a complaint with the police," the FIR read.

The teacher, in the complaint to the police, stated that Gurappa Naidu got angry when she objected to his advances. "I informed my mother about the incident. My mother advised me to quit the job. It took me some time to come out of the trauma and lodge a complaint with the police," she said. —BMB

Woman ends life by suicide

A 19-year-old woman was found dead on Friday morning after allegedly committing suicide by hanging herself on the terrace of her house near Rajajinagar Ram Mandir. The deceased, identified as Priyanka, was a second-year BCom student at MES College. She was reportedly suffering from depression in recent times, which is suspected to have led to her demise. No suicide note has been found so far. Investigations are ongoing. —BMB

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CuSense Pillow Set
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Treated water stirring trouble at Doddakallasandra Lake

Activists raise concerns over pipeline from nearby apartment complex releasing wastewater without consulting locals involved in protecting lake

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(File photo) BWSSB official stated released treated water is potable and safe for aquatic life

Walkers and lake activists at Doddakallasandra have expressed concern about a pipeline being laid from a nearby apartment complex to release treated wastewater into the lake. Locals say the work has been taken up without consultation with citizens who are actively involved in the conservation of the water body. "The pipeline is releasing secondary treated water and BBMP (Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike) has no control over water quality. The lake is rich in biodiversity and was rejuvenated recently by BBMP. Residents involved in lake conservation work have not been consulted by BBMP about this initiative," said a resident.

Notably, the project is Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board's (BWSSB) brainchild to deal with Bengaluru's summer water crisis due to depleting groundwater resources. The water board, a few months ago, had decided to utilise excess treated wastewater by tech parks and residential communities around the city's lakes to improve the groundwater table. However, locals beg to differ.

"BBMP is the custodian of Bengaluru's lakes but has been kept out of the ambit of this program. The civic agency is not even involved in checking the water quality before it is let in," said a local lake activist.

"BWSSB is letting in treated wastewater from Prestige Falcon apartment. The water quality of the treated water is also being monitored by BWSSB. We do not have any participation in the project," said a BBMP official from the Lake Department. According to a BWSSB official, while the water being released in the lake is secondary treated wastewater, it is potable and will not harm aquatic life and the lake's biodiversity.

"BWSSB is allowing secondary treated surplus water by residential apartments and societies that are within one-kilometer radius of water bodies. These societies are selected based on the water quality of the treated water. In the case of Doddakallasandra Lake, we are taking treated water from Prestige Falcon only after checking the parameters. We will also be conducting periodic checks. Moreover, these are the layouts that have received consent for operation from the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB). The water being released is safe," said the official.

Rejuvenated lakes unable to catch rainwater: Experts

"After BBMP has started rejuvenating the city's lakes, they are facing a constant struggle to fill up these water bodies. All rejuvenated lakes inevitably present this problem sooner or later. These lakes are unable to collect rainwater. This is due to the change in inlet design. Inlets collect water, but during the rejuvenation process, BBMP raises the height to avoid the entry of sewage. However, this alteration is not allowing lakes to collect rainwater also as, impacting their overall functionality" said Raghavendra B Pachhapur, a city-based lake conservationist.

> **"BBMP is custodian of B'luru's lakes but has been kept out of the ambit of this program**
> – Lake activist

Dug-up roads in Hoysala Nagar put public at risk

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Indiscriminate road digging in Hoysala Nagar, located in the KR Puram Assembly constituency, has raised concerns among residents. They are frustrated by the lack of information regarding the responsible parties and the timeline for restoration. The roads, which were dug up a week ago, remain open, creating a hazard for unsuspecting motorists and pedestrians.

"We are not sure which agency is responsible for digging the roads. There is no board indicating the name of the agency and the purpose. We are not against digging roads to lay OFC (Optical Fibre) cables. We urge the authorities concerned to ensure restoration of the roads that are dug up," said Nageswara Rao R, a resident.

Rao said the digging of the road is likely to cause more problems if it is not restored immediately. "I request the BBMP (Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike) engineer to look into this matter and take necessary measures to ensure public safety and prevent further damage to the road," he said, adding that the contractor has not taken adequate measures such as installing boards or a physical barrier to caution the public.

Businessmen on the 3rd Main of Hoysala Nagar urge the BBMP authorities to direct those responsible for excavating the road to expedite the ongoing work and restore the road without any delay. "With the portion of the road along the footpath being dug up, parking of vehicles has become a tough task. Some people are parking vehicles in the middle of the road thus causing traffic jams during peak hours. I told the workers who dug up the road to fill it. They have assured to restore the road," said Basavaraj, who owns a medical store.

Dug-up portion of 3rd Main Road at Hoyasalanagar

The residents said they are unsure whether the contractor hired by the telecom service provider has obtained permission from the BBMP to dig the road. "Telecom service providers have made it a routine to dig up roads immediately after the BBMP has finished asphalting them. I urge the BBMP authorities to take measures to restore the road to avoid inconvenience to the motorists and pedestrians," said a resident.

Demanding the restoration of the road, a businessman, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said it has become common for companies to dig up roads without permission from the authorities. "We do not know when the road will be restored. If the delay in restoration of the road is any indication, it seems the people who dug up the road are not bothered about the inconvenience being caused to the public," he said.

Meanwhile, BBMP's Assistant Executive Engineer was not available for comment.

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Tree blockage
Kanaka Layout

A large fallen tree has blocked the walking path and children's play area in Kempegowda Park, Kanaka Layout, despite repeated appeals for clearance.

Parking issue
South End Circle

Vehicles are frequently parked on the sidewalk beneath the South End Circle Metro Station, forcing pedestrians to walk on the road.

Vehicle pile-up
RT Nagar

The area in RT Nagar has become a dumping ground for abandoned vehicles, making the neighbourhood more congested.

Theft, chain-snatching rings busted

Stolen two-wheelers, gold chains worth ₹16 lakh recovered

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Police have dismantled multiple criminal networks, recovering stolen two-wheelers and gold chains worth Rs.16 lakh and bringing several theft cases to light.

The first major breakthrough began with a complaint filed on September 24, by a resident of Kurubarahalli. The complainant had parked their two-wheeler on 15th Main Road, Mahalakshmi Layout, before attending a Ganesha procession. Upon returning at 9.15 pm, the vehicle was missing.

The police launched an investigation. On November 20, they apprehended a suspect near Taj Hotel, Goraguntepalya, along with a stolen two-wheeler. Under interrogation, the suspect confessed to stealing bikes across the city. Following the lead, police seized eight more vehicles parked near a house in Jai Maruthi Nagar.

The arrest of a second suspect on November 21 near Nandini Layout revealed more stolen goods. Authorities seized another seven two-wheelers parked in a vacant lot. Further investigation uncovered five more vehicles, recovered after notifying buyers, who unknowingly purchased the stolen goods.

In total, 21 two-wheelers valued at 6.5 lakh were confiscated. The case linked thefts across eight police stations, solving 12 cases.

Series of gold chain snatchings

On November 6, another case unraveled when a Yelahanka resident reported a gold chain snatching incident. While walking near Jakkur Main Road, the complainant was accosted by two men on a two-wheeler who fled with a 21-gram Mangalya chain. Yelahanka Police have cracked a series of gold chain snatchings, recovering 60 grams of gold and two stolen two-wheelers, valued at 4.15 lakh.

Acting on informant leads and surveillance data, the police arrested two suspects near Allalasandra Bridge on November 18, recovering the vehicle used in the crime. During interrogation, the suspects confessed to additional snatchings in Vidyaranyapura and KR Puram. On November 19, authorities recovered the stolen Mangalya chain from a finance company in Kodigehalli.

Further investigations led to the retrieval of another 14-gram chain from a jewellery workshop in Doddaballapur on November 22. The following day, a 25-gram chain was seized from a friend of the accused in Singanayakanahalli. The accused, linked to three abduction cases across Yelahanka, Vidyaranyapura, and KR Puram, were presented in court on November 19 and remanded to police custody for five days. On November 23, they were again produced in court and sent to judicial custody. The police continue to investigate, aiming to uncover any additional crimes connected to the duo.

High-value robbery

A resident of Mahadevapura reported a chain snatching on November 21. As per the complaint, the victim was coming home from a nearby store after buying milk, when two assailants snatched a 60-gram gold Mangalya chain and fled on a two-wheeler.

Police apprehended the suspects on November 22 from an apartment in Kodigehalli. During interrogation, the duo confessed to the crime. Authorities recovered the stolen chain, valued at 5 lakh, from a car parked outside the suspects' residence, along with the two-wheeler used in the offence.

Fake ID card maker who aided illegal immigrants' stay arrested

The City Police have arrested Arnab Mandal, a cyber café owner accused of creating fake identity documents for illegal immigrants from Bangladesh. Mandal, originally from West Bengal, operated a cyber centre on the outskirts of Bengaluru, where he allegedly prepared counterfeit Aadhaar cards and other documents.

According to police sources, Mandal charged between ₹8,000 and ₹10,000 for each fake identity card. Acting on a tip-off, authorities raided the cyber centre on Thursday, uncovering a trove of fraudulent documents. The seizure included 55 fake Aadhaar cards, 40 bank records, two computers, and two mobile phones. Additionally, police found rental agreements for 15 to 18 houses, suggesting a network facilitating illegal residency.

Police officials also stated, "We obtained PAN cards that were used at the Aadhaar card office. These documents are still under verification, and our investigation is ongoing."

During interrogation, Mandal admitted to producing fake documents for over a year. His operation reportedly enabled numerous illegal immigrants to obtain false identities. —BMB

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Sharmila's record-breaking achievements speak for themselves. As the first woman to be elected to the managing committees of both the Indian Gymkhana and Hennur Banaswadi Cosmopolitan Club, Sharmila earned the highest votes in the 2022 elections. As Chairperson of Badminton, she introduced BWF-certified Yonex courts and orchestrated national-level tournaments, elevating the sports culture and club experience for members.

Sharmila's expertise is backed by a formidable financial pedigree, with stints at global giants such as PwC and American Express, certifications from HarvardX, and CPA Australia. Her strategic vision includes implementing cashless financial systems, fostering transparency, and ensuring ethical, member-focused fiscal management.

In fact, Sharmlia's influence extends beyond finance. As a champion for social impact, Sharmila has left her mark on organizations like the FICCI Ladies Organization and Rotary. Her accolades include being a published writer with over 300 articles in The Times of India, where she has spotlighted pressing social issues. She is also the founder of Earthen Wellness Ayurveda, an acclaimed wellness center inaugurated by Smt. Sudha Murty, reflecting her dedication to holistic living and community well-being. For Sharmila, leadership isn't just about managing finances; it's about upholding values, fostering inclusivity, and building a sustainable future. Her deep roots in the Gymkhana community reinforce her unwavering commitment to driving positive change.

Vote for Sharmila Ravinder Dhareshwar for Treasurer—because every vote for her is a step towards integrity, innovation, and a brighter future for the Indian Gymkhana Club. Together, let's pave the way for excellence...

B'luru courts can hear Dey's defamation case

Karnataka High Court determined that Bengaluru courts have jurisdiction to hear case filed by late singer's family on circulation of Bengali book about singer

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Manna Dey (File photo)

The Karnataka High Court has determined that courts in Bengaluru have jurisdiction to hear the defamation case filed by late singer Manna Dey's family regarding restrictions on the circulation of a Bengali book about the singer. Justice HP Sandesh noted that despite the book's publication in West Bengal, its availability in Bengaluru grants jurisdiction.

The High Court overturned the trial court's dismissal of the suit filed by Shumita Deb, Manna Dey's daughter, and her husband against Gautam Bhattacharya and others.

The trial court had dismissed the suit, stating that the Bengali language content in the newspaper (Anand Bazaar Patrika) and book (Taradar Shesh Chitthi) being sold in Bengaluru did not establish territorial jurisdiction.

The High Court cited Section 19 CPC, noting the trial court's oversight regarding the wrong being committed in Bengaluru. Section 19 CPC addresses suits for compensation regarding wrongs to persons or movable property. It provides that when wrong occurs within one court's jurisdiction while the defendant resides or works within another court's jurisdiction, the plaintiff may choose either court for filing the suit.

Case background

The plaintiffs sought to prevent the defendants from reproducing or distributing allegedly defamatory content about Manna Dey from "Tarader Sesh Chitthi." They also requested an injunction against Entertainment Network India Pvt Ltd regarding the book's content.

The appellants requested financial records of the book's sales and sought compensation of Rs 10,00,000 plus Rs 25,00,000 in damages from Bhattacharya. The plaintiffs alleged that defendant Bhattacharya conducted a "vilifying campaign" through an article in Anand Bazar Patrika on October 28, 2013, and subsequently in "Taradar Shesh Chitthi." They claimed the article contained false and malicious content about Manna Dey's private relationships, intended to cause public ridicule.

The court observed that the book's sale in Bengaluru affected local Bengali residents who knew the appellants, leading to discussions about the defamatory content

The defendants contested the suit, citing procedural issues and freedom of press rights. The appellants highlighted a previously granted temporary injunction, confirmed by the High Court. They argued that the trial court's dismissal overlooked Section 19 CPC. The respondents maintained that Section 19 didn't permit filing in Bengaluru, as the publications originated in Kolkata.

Court's findings

The High Court noted the book's sale in Bengaluru during the 2016 Durga Pooja and its continued availability through online platforms. Citing Section 19 CPC, the court emphasised the plaintiff's right to choose the jurisdiction when wrong occurs in one jurisdiction while the defendant resides in another.

The High Court observed that the book's sale in Bengaluru affected local Bengali residents who knew the appellants, leading to discussions about the defamatory content.

The High Court ruled that the trial court erred in dismissing the case based solely on the book's sale location, particularly given the suit's multiple relief requests. The appeal was allowed, directing the trial court to proceed with the case's merits according to law.

This ruling will allow courts in the city to hear the defamation case file by Manna Dey's family, without restraint and make judgements accordingly.

Crackers to keep leopard out?

A stray leopard spotted near Turahalli forest on Thursday evening sent panic waves among residents of the area.

Out of fear of being attacked by the big cat, the residents, in a knee-jerk reaction, decided to burst firecrackers to push the animal inside the forest.

"We saw the leopard crossing the road adjacent to Turahalli Forest. It was hardly 50 metres away from a residential house next to the forest compound wall. It soon started to walk away towards the forest, but residents, acting on their fear, decided to burst firecrackers so the animal does not come out again. We burst five to seven auto bombs to scare the leopard," said a resident.

Residents say they decided to burst firecrackers as there are many street dogs and children in and around the houses in the area.

"We were worried the big cat would return given the large number of street dogs in the area. However, we also informed the forest department about the incident," said Somu HN, a resident.

The sighting of a big cat has come just a week after a leopard killed a 57-year-old woman near Shivagange Betta forest in Nelamanagala.

Although cases of sightings are rising, wildlife experts say, bursting firecrackers to scare away the animal might lead to a big accident. In case of a leopard sighting, locals must immediately inform the forest department and stay indoors instead of resorting to unscientific measures.

"Residents resorting to these tricks is nothing short of inviting trouble. Such incidents might become fatal in a matter of a few seconds if crackers push the panic button in the animal. In case of sighting a big cat, the right thing to do is to call the forest department. If they are too concerned, they should remain indoors and avoid venturing out after sunset. Left alone, the animal will evacuate the area in a couple of days. The city is expanding into wildlife habitats and the only way out is to coexist," said Joseph Hoover, former State Board of Wildlife member and founder of the United Conservation Movement and Charitable Trust. **–Garima Prasher**

Who calls for boardroom? 2 Varsities' tug-of-war

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Despite the trifurcation of Bangalore University taking place several years ago, some issues remain unresolved. One major problem still faced by the university is the lack of a proper boardroom to conduct syndicate meetings. It has been eight years since Bangalore University was split into three institutions. Before and after the trifurcation, Bangalore University relied on the boardroom in the seminar hall for conducting syndicate meetings and press conferences. However, after the division, there was confusion about which university would get control of the seminar hall and the boardroom.

The Higher Education Department intervened and allocated the seminar hall and the boardroom to Bengaluru City University. Initially, Bengaluru City University allowed Bangalore University to use the facilities without any charges for meetings, events, and convocations. However, over time, conditions were imposed, leading to disagreements between the two institutions. Recently, Bengaluru City University has refused to allow Bangalore University to conduct meetings in the boardroom, citing scheduling conflicts. This has led to further disputes, with Bangalore University requesting alternative arrangements from the vice-chancellor and registrar.

Meeting challenges

Last month, Bengaluru City University organised a syndicate meeting in the board room, leaving Bangalore University struggling to find a venue for its own meetings. Prof Lingaraj Gandhi, Vice-Chancellor of Bengaluru City University, commented, "We only have one boardroom for meetings. When our meetings are scheduled, it becomes difficult for others to use the room. As a result, we have asked the university to make alternative arrangements." However, Dr MS Jayakar, Vice-Chancellor of Bangalore University, mentioned, "The construction of a new boardroom is currently underway at our university. The administrative building and seminar halls are also in the repair phase. Once these works are completed, we will hold our meetings at our own campus. Until then, we may face some inconvenience."

Bangalore City University campus (File photo)

Inspection reveals lapses in care and administration in hospital

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A surprise inspection by the Lokayukta at KC General Hospital on Friday has uncovered a series of alarming irregularities, following public complaints about the hospital's operations.

Key findings during the inspection included multiple reports of corruption and negligence. One such incident occurred a week ago when a pregnant woman, Manjula, arrived at the hospital at midnight for delivery. According to Manjula nurses and attendants demanded bribes for her admission. The nurses involved in this were questioned, and they admitted to receiving bribes.

The inspection also found shortage of medical staff. There were 10 special rooms and only 3 patients were found to be receiving inpatient treatment. The Medical Superintendent said that due to a shortage of staff in the hospital, not many patients are being admitted. However, when pressed on the issue, the Medical Superintendent could not provide a satisfactory explanation. Additionally, patients and their attendants reported that while medicines were available within the hospital, doctors insisted they purchase them from outside, with vouchers issued for the same. The Lokayukta observed that most of the surgical beds were stored in the 25-bed ward of the hospital. When questioned about this, the Medical Superintendent explained that the additional surgical beds purchased during the COVID period were being kept in these wards.

Lokayukta-led investigation uncovered corruption and negligence

Further lapses were noted in the hospital's infrastructure. The toilets were found to be in poor condition, with inadequate water supply, while the walls in certain areas showed signs of water leakage and cracking. The hospital's maternity ward had a malfunctioning ECG machine, while only one of the two ventilators in the pediatric ICU was operational. There was also a lack of transparency regarding the availability of medicines, with discrepancies between physical stock and inventory records.

The Lokayukta instructed an extensive follow-up investigation by a team of judicial and police officials. Further action is expected to address these serious issues.

Accidents drop, but death toll rises on Expressway

Two Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway crashes last week killed five, exposing persistent flaws

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The Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway, once notorious for frequent accidents, continues to be a hotspot for road mishaps. While the overall number of accidents has decreased, the alarming rise in fatalities has raised serious concerns.

In the past week alone, two major accidents on the Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway claimed five lives. In one incident on Tuesday night, a family of three travelling to Mysuru lost their lives when their car struck a road divider near Sangabasavanadoddi, overturned, and collided with an oncoming KSRTC Ashwamedha bus. In another accident near Channapatna, a canter truck driver abruptly changed lanes, resulting in a collision with a car that left two people dead. Despite enforcing a maximum speed limit of 100 km/h and imposing penalties for violations, systemic flaws in the expressway's infrastructure and vehicle compliance continue to cause such mishaps.

Causes of accidents

A police official said, "Overspeeding remains a primary factor, but additional issues such as driver negligence, unfit vehicles, worn-out tyres, improper wheel alignment, and outdated vehicles contribute significantly to the accidents."

Initial efforts reduced accidents

Initially, the expressway reported multiple accidents daily. Measures led by the then Additional Director General of Police (Traffic) Alok Kumar, including stricter speed monitoring and installation of ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) cameras, helped curb the frequency of accidents.

Overspeeding is a primary factor for accidents

Despite these efforts, incidents involving vehicles hitting dividers or flipping onto opposing lanes persist, often resulting in fatalities.

"The 118-km expressway, operational for three years, still suffers from inadequate entry and exit points. Crucially, the absence of sufficient dividers and steel barricades between opposing lanes has left vehicles vulnerable to crossing into oncoming traffic. Additionally, many older model vehicles, some unfit for road use and destined for scrap yards, are still being driven on the expressway. Driver negligence, including instances of fatigued driving, further compounds the risk, with errors behind the wheel frequently proving fatal", said a police official.

To address these challenges, experts recommend several safety measures. Vijay Kumar, a traffic expert said, "Drivers should ensure their vehicles are roadworthy before using the expressway and promptly replace worn tyres. Speed management is critical, especially for older and smaller vehicles, which should maintain speeds below 100 km/h. Vehicles lacking airbags must strictly adhere to lower speed limits, and drowsy drivers should avoid getting behind the wheel altogether. Authorities must expedite the installation of mid-lane steel barricades to prevent vehicles from crossing into opposing lanes."

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Bengaluru's driving growth in real estate

Bengaluru continues to dominate India's office real estate sector, reflecting the city's robust economic confidence and position as a leading IT hub. Office market transactions in India rose by 18% in Q3 2024 compared to Q3 2023, with Bengaluru contributing significantly to this growth. The completion of new office spaces in key cities, including Bengaluru, has further bolstered the commercial real estate market. According to the Real Estate Sentiment Index, developed by Knight Frank India and the National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO), the sentiment remains optimistic in Q3, despite global economic challenges. The findings show a balanced outlook, with stakeholders expressing confidence in the residential and office segments driven by steady demand and favorable market conditions.

BMRCL building foot-over-bridge to access railway platforms at KSR station

Current sentiment score dip

The Current Sentiment Score for Q3 2024 saw a slight moderation, dipping from 65 in Q2 to 64. This reflects cautious optimism among stakeholders, influenced by prevailing global uncertainties such as geopolitical tensions and fluctuating economic conditions. However, the Future Sentiment Score improved from 65 to 67, signaling growing confidence for the upcoming six months. This optimism is driven by factors like anticipated festive season demand, easing inflationary pressures, and an expected boost in capital inflows.

Bengaluru is at core

The South Zone, with Bengaluru at its core, demonstrated a positive sentiment, with the score rising from 65 in Q2 2024 to 66 in Q3 2024. This improvement highlights stable residential demand and favourable trends in IT hubs such as Bengaluru. The city's vibrant real estate market, bolstered by ongoing infrastructure projects and robust leasing activity, continues to play a pivotal role in driving the South Zone's performance and instilling confidence among stakeholders, according to the report.

Steady recalibration

The report stated that Bengaluru's residential real estate market is undergoing a phase of steady recalibration as developers adapt to evolving market dynamics. The focus remains firmly on mid-to-premium segments, which continue to experience consistent demand. Stakeholders express confidence in the city's end-user-driven market, with 40% anticipating sales growth and 28% expecting stability in the coming months. Pricing trends also reflect optimism, as most stakeholders foresee a rise in residential prices, driven by robust demand and limited inventory in prime locations. Developers are strategically balancing new project launches with effective inventory management to sustain this momentum.

Robust growth

The city's commercial real estate sector also showcases resilience and robust growth, bolstered by the continued expansion of tech and consulting firms. Bengaluru's status as a thriving business hub, coupled with ongoing infrastructure enhancements, reinforces confidence among stakeholders. Despite global economic uncertainties, the outlook for Bengaluru's commercial real estate remains strong, underpinned by steady leasing activity and long-term growth potential. The report stated that a robust 76% of stakeholders predict increased office leasing, up from 63% in Q2 2024.

Rise in high-priced properties in Bengaluru

Amid growing demand for luxury homes following the pandemic, Bengaluru has witnessed a significant increase in both new launches and sales of higher-priced properties. According to the latest data from ANAROCK, the average ticket size of homes sold in Bengaluru has surged from INR 84 lakh in H1 FY 2024 to INR 1.21 crore in H1 FY 2025, marking an impressive 44% year-on-year growth. This jump is part of a broader trend seen across the top seven cities in India, where the average ticket size rose from INR 1 crore in H1 FY 2024 to INR 1.23 crore in H1 FY 2025.

Between April and September 2024, Bengaluru saw approximately 31,381 units sold, valued at INR 37,863 crore. This is nearly the same number of units sold as in the previous year (31,440 units), but the total sales value was significantly higher, reflecting the rise in property prices. The data highlights that Bengaluru is second only to NCR in terms of the percentage growth in average ticket size among the top seven cities, driven by a surge in demand for luxury and high-end residential properties.

In comparison to other cities, Bengaluru's growth mirrors trends seen in Hyderabad and Chennai. Hyderabad, for instance, saw a 37% increase in average ticket size, reaching INR 1.15 crore in H1 FY 2025, while Chennai experienced a 31% rise, with average ticket sizes climbing to INR 95 lakh. However, Bengaluru stands out not only for the substantial rise in its average ticket size but also for its consistent sales volume, maintaining a steady number of transactions while seeing a marked increase in the total value of sales.

This surge in luxury home demand also reflects the changing dynamics of the real estate market in Bengaluru. The city continues to be a major player in India's real estate growth story, benefiting from its status as a hub for IT and innovation. The growth in Bengaluru's luxury real estate market aligns with broader national trends, where total sales volume across the top cities reached approximately 2,27,400 units, valued at INR 2.79 lakh crore, despite a slight 3% drop in unit sales compared to the previous year.

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India's real estate sector poised for record growth

Real estate equity investments in India are set to hit a record high in 2024, surpassing USD 10 billion for the first time. This surge is attributed to increased investment in office assets and a strong pipeline of residential land acquisitions. The report projects total equity investments in the sector to reach between USD 10 and 11 billion in 2024. From January to September 2024, institutional and collective vehicle investors accounted for nearly 40% of all capital inflows, with domestic investors—mainly developers—investing approximately USD 6 billion, representing nearly 65% of total capital inflows. Foreign investors contributed USD 3.1 billion, with North American and Singaporean investors comprising 85% of foreign inflows.

CBRE South Asia Pvt. Ltd in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII), unveiled a joint report titled 'Leading the Charge: Crafting the Skylines of Tomorrow' at the annual CII Realty 2024 conclave. The report highlights key trends and growth projections for India's real estate sector, marking a pivotal moment in the industry's evolution.

According to the report, equity capital inflows into India's real estate sector reached USD 8.9 billion during the first nine months of 2024, marking a significant 46% year-on-year growth. Deal volumes continued to rise, with around 200 transactions reported, up from 151 during the same period in 2023. The average deal size also saw an increase, reaching nearly USD 45 million compared to USD 36 million in the previous year. The office sector experienced a notable resurgence, with nearly 50% growth, while residential and mixed-use developments attracted substantial capital, with nearly 64% of land/development site investments directed toward residential projects. Gateway cities like Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, and Bengaluru accounted for more than 63% of the total capital inflows, with Delhi-NCR alone contributing approximately USD 2.3 billion (26% of total inflows). Debt financing in the real estate sector also reached a record high of USD 4.7 billion, more than doubling from the previous year. A significant portion of this financing, about 60%, was directed toward key markets like Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, and Bengaluru.

D Thara, additional secretary at the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, emphasised the need for developers to create energy-efficient, sustainable spaces that align with India's broader sustainability goals, stressing that real estate development should focus on creating thriving communities rather than just physical structures. Anshuman Magazine, chairman & CEO of CBRE India, highlighted the forecasted USD 10-11 billion equity investments in 2024 as a strong indication of continued investor interest. He noted the growing appeal of tier-II markets, especially with the introduction of SEBI's SM REIT framework, which is expected to attract more capital and institutional participation. Anil Saraf, chairman of the CII NR Committee on Real Estate, pointed out the real estate sector's critical role in India's economy, driving GDP growth, and emphasised the need for collaboration and innovation to sustain this growth.

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STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

SURVIVES AND FLOURISHES

Cactus plants survive and flourish in inhospitable surroundings thanks to the tricks they learned over 120 million years of evolution. This cactus plant lived with a meager amount of water in its stems, with the help of its thorns that prevent evaporation.

The picture was clicked by reader **T Prakash**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

KSR railway station to be modernised after 56 years

KSR station will be getting G+9 building with additional amenities

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South Western Railway has proposed a comprehensive redevelopment plan for the Kranthiveera Sangolli Rayanna (KSR) Bengaluru City Railway Station (Majestic). The project includes the construction of a nine-storey main building, three entry points, a multi-level car parking facility, and two additional platforms. Constructed in 1968, the existing station is set for modernisation after 56 years. A preliminary report has been submitted to the Railway Board, and once approved, tenders will be called. With an estimated budget of Rs 1,500 crore, the KSR station will be upgraded to match the standards of international airports, as confirmed by State Railway Minister V Somanna.

Key features of redevelopment

The main building, currently a G+2 structure, will be replaced with a G+9 building covering an area of 1,27,044 square metres. The revamped station will include three major structures—the main station building, a second entry building, and a G+5 parcel handling facility. The total project area spans 2,45,926 square metres. The station will house 45 elevators and 60 escalators, with six elevators dedicated to the main building and 15 in the concourse area. Four upper floors in the main station will be allocated for commercial use, while two floors will host station offices. The concourse level will feature waiting rooms, restrooms, water stations, shops, and restaurants for passengers' convenience.

Enhanced connectivity

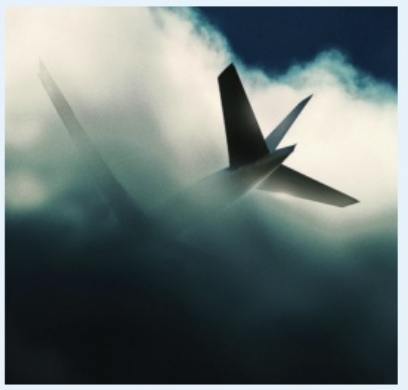
Sources said that the redeveloped station will offer seamless connectivity to the Majestic bus terminal, suburban railway, and metro stations. For suburban railway users, special features like four travelators are planned. A blueprint also includes a direct link to the metro station for improved passenger access. Current challenges related to pickup and dropoff zones will be addressed with designated spaces for 75 auto-rickshaws and 130 cars. Two basement levels will provide parking for 1,672 equivalent car spaces (ECS). Additionally, a G+3 multi-level car parking facility will be developed near the Okalipuram second entry gate. Provisions for 50 rickshaws, 10 buses, and 20 cars for pickup and dropoff are also included.

Additional platforms and entrances

The current station, which has 10 platforms, will see the addition of two more (Platforms 11 and 12). A third entrance is planned on the Vatal Nagaraj Road side, enhancing accessibility and accommodating the increased passenger footfall. According to railway data, the KSR station is one of the busiest in Karnataka, catering to 1.75-2 lakh passengers daily. During the 2023-24 fiscal year, the station saw 2.48 crore passengers and generated revenue of Rs 803 crore.

Main building in KSR currently is G+2 structure, which will be replaced with a G+9 building of 1,27,044 sq mts

DID YOU KNOW?



One of the biggest aviation mysteries of all time is the disappearance of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370. The Boeing 777 carrying 239 passengers and crew from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to Beijing, China, disappeared from radar screens on March 8, 2014. The plane and its occupants have never been located, despite intensive search operations across a large portion of the Indian Ocean. Pilot suicide, hijacking, and technical failure are among the explanations that have been put forth to explain the disappearance; however, none of them have been confirmed to be accurate. Conspiracy theories and intrigue have been stoked by the incident's enigmatic circumstances and lack of hard evidence. Numerous mysteries remain unresolved in this case, which continues to captivate and perplex both detectives and the general public.

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

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Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

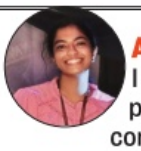
TAPTHECHATTER

where Bengalureans speak their mind

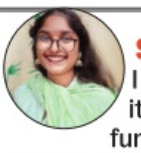
Which are some of your favourite pedestrian-friendly spaces in Bengaluru?

Anagha Rao, BM Reader
Cubbon Park and Lalbagh were two of my most frequented walkabouts, the latter especially. Lumbini Gardens involves fun rides along with the mandatory stroll. JP Park promises a lake view whenever I trudge into its heart.

Krithika Kudva, BM Reader
BEL Road is a lot quieter, more peaceful, and underrated. Lined with tall trees, it feels more relaxed and close to nature. It's perfect for a calm, reflective walk away from the city's busy areas.



Ananya Bejoy, BM Reader
I think a lot of pedestrian-friendly places are now undergoing a lot of construction work, and we end up walking on the road. But I think walking along Vasanthnagar and Cunningham Road stretch is quite peaceful, with beautiful houses.



Soumya S, BM Reader
I like going to Cubbon Park because it's very peaceful and has a lot of fun activities happening. Church Street is another pedestrian-friendly place that I love for the vibe, the food, and the stalls.

Sakshi Jain, BM Reader
A great walking spot is Brigade Road. It's a shopping hub with wide footpaths. Another great spot is Indiranagar 100 Feet Road, which is surprisingly walkable, with good sidewalks and plenty of cafes and shops to stop by.

Mishika Jha, BM Reader
I've always been drawn to Basavanagudi's Bull Temple Road. Early mornings there, especially in the winter, feel almost mystical. And then there's the pathway along Ulsoor Lake. It's not as well-known as other spots.

SPEAK TO US

What do you think of reading culture in Bengaluru?

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HEALTH TIP: Consistency is crucial for weight loss, and walking can be done regularly without requiring special equipment

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NOSY BABIES

3 reasons why kids stick stuff up their nose

Children, especially toddlers and preschoolers, have an uncanny ability to surprise adults. And one of the more alarming discoveries parents can make is their child has stuck a small object, such as a Lego piece, up their nose.

Queensland Children's Hospital recently reported more than 1,650 children with foreign objects up their nose had presented to its emergency department over the past decade. Lego, beads, balls, batteries, buttons and crayons were among the most common objects.

With the Christmas season approaching, it's likely more of these small objects will be brought into our homes as toys, gifts or novelty items.

But why do children stick things like these up their nose? Here's how natural curiosity, developing motor skills, and a limited understanding of risk can be a dangerous combination.

1 Kids are curious creatures

Toddlers are naturally curious creatures. During the toddler and preschool years, children explore their environment by using their senses. They touch, taste, smell, listen to and look at everything around them. It's a natural part of their development and a big part of how they learn about the world.

Researchers call this "curiosity-based learning". They say children are more likely to explore unfamiliar objects or when they don't completely understand how they work. This may explain why toddlers tend to gravitate towards new or unfamiliar objects at home.

Unfortunately, this healthy developmental curiosity sometimes leads to them putting things in places they shouldn't, such as their nose.

2 Kids are great mimics

Young children often mimic what they see. Studies that tracked the same group of children over time confirm imitation plays a vital role in a child's development. This activates certain critical neural pathways in the brain. Imitation is particularly important when learning to use and understand language and when learning motor skills such as walking, clapping, catching a ball, waving and writing.

Put simply, when a child imitates, it strengthens brain connections and helps them learn new skills faster. Anecdotally, parents of toddlers will relate to seeing their younger children copying older siblings' phrases or gestures.

Inserting items into their nose is no different. Toddlers see older children and adults placing items near their face – when they blow their nose, put on makeup or eat – and decide to try it themselves.

3 Kids don't yet understand risk

Toddlers might be curious. But they don't have the cognitive capacity or reasoning ability to comprehend the consequences of placing items in their nose or mouth. This can be a dangerous combination. So supervising your toddler is essential.

Small, bright-coloured objects, items with interesting textures, or items that resemble food are especially tempting for little ones.

What can I do?

Sometimes, it's obvious when a child has put something up their nose, but not always. Your child might have pain or itchiness around the nose, discharge or bleeding from the nose, and be upset or uncomfortable.

If your child has difficulty breathing or you suspect your child has inserted a sharp object or button battery seek immediate medical care. Button batteries can burn and damage tissues in as little as 15 minutes, which can lead to infection and injury.

If your child inserts an object where they shouldn't:

- **stay calm:** your child will react to your emotions, so try to remain calm and reassuring
- **assess the situation:** can you see the object? Is your child in distress?
- **encourage your child** to blow their nose gently. This may help dislodge the object
- **take your child outside in the Sun:** brief exposure for a minute or two might prompt a "Sun sneeze", which may dislodge the object. But avoid sniffing, which may cause the object to travel further in the airways and into the lungs
- **never try to remove** the object yourself using tweezers, cotton swabs or other tools. This can push the object further into the nose, causing more damage.

If these methods don't dislodge the item, your child is not distressed and you don't suspect a sharp object or button battery, go to your GP. They may be able to see and remove the item.

Prevention is better

Preventing these incidents starts with keeping small, shiny, tempting objects out of reach of children, and teaching them not to place objects in their noses or mouths.

Supervision is key. Parents and caregivers can also be stringent about what they bring into their home. If there's an alternative item, for example, a similar product that doesn't need a button battery, consider buying that instead.

Curiosity is a hallmark of children and a key learning process in the early years. However, this curiosity, combined with a limited ability to identify danger, can be a risky combination. With awareness of the dangers, supervision, and appropriate action when incidents happen, parents can keep their children safe, while they explore the world.

(By Anna Girardi, University of Southern Queensland, The Conversation)

All you need to know about...

Weight loss mistakes

Not Checking The Labels
Always check the labels of the food you buy. Keep a track of the calories, carbs and protein going into your body. Oftentimes, 'healthy' companies can mislead you into buying unhealthy options. 'Low Fat' food items usually have extra added sugar in them to improve their taste. So simply buying food items is a no-no, always check the labels.

Not Varying Your Workouts
Doing the same workout over and over again gets your body used to the exercise and burns lesser calories every time you repeat it. Vary your workouts to work on different parts of your body and at different intensities to get your body worked up and burn that extra fat.

Not Watching What You Drink
What you are not eating, might be what you are drinking! Does that yogurt smoothie have too much sugar? Or did you have two soft drinks with your salad today? Drinks usually go unnoticed but add a lot to your diet. Watch what you drink and how much you drink.

Not Sleeping Enough
Having a restful 7-8 hours of sleep is vital for weight loss. The less you sleep, the more tired your system will be and a habit like that could have adverse effects. A tired system results in a tired digestion, tired metabolism and hampered health. So make sure you get those Zs.

Taking Too Much Stress
According to Luke Coutinho, the founder of 'You Care', stress leads to a rise in cortisol levels (stress hormone) and adrenaline. Over time, this leads to a hormonal imbalance, which has every connection with body fat, fertility, loss of bone density, and most importantly, estrogen dominance - the main reason behind stubborn belly fat.

—Femina

MIRRORLIGHTS

Here's to what end you can use expired makeup

Let's admit it–we all have at least one, if not more, old makeup pieces that we can't seem to let go of, no matter how old they really are. Call it sentimental attachment or the last remains of a favourite product before it was discontinued, but we continue to blissfully ignore the printed date on the packaging and apply it on our faces. But is it safe?

The Problem With Using Expired Makeup: "The problem with using products after they cross the expiration date is that the composition may change and therefore you're at risk of contamination from bacteria," says Pooja Savla, Creative Stylist and Lead Make Up, Looks salons. This could result in skin irritation and pore blockages which will eventually cause breakouts, acne, and redness. "This is why ensure to check the period after opening which tells you how long a product should be used once the seal is off," she explains.

When To Throw Out Liquid Makeup: You know how sometimes you open a fresh bottle of liquid foundation only to notice two separate liquids in the bottle a few days later? Well, most liquid products are a mix of water and silicone or oil, and often, a new product can go bad due to various factors including weather, temperature, etc which results in the two phases separating. "You might notice a change in the texture, smell and how it wears and once you do, it's best to throw it out instead of risking it," adds Pooja.

What About Mascaras & Lipsticks: "A giveaway of lipsticks gone bad is when they smell like crayons. Dispose it immediately," says Pooja. With mascaras, Pooja says that no matter what the tube says, it's best to replace it every three to six months. "Using it after its expiration date could lead to eye infections," warns Pooja. Remember to throw out dried mascara instead of adding a liquid to the tube and shaking it.

What About Powder Products?: The good news about powder products is that you properly take care of them, you can use them for years to come since they don't contain water or oils. "Close the lid every time you're done using the product, and store it in a cool dry environment, and use a brush," adds Pooja.

—Ravina Sachdev, Femina

Cornered, couple transfers over Rs 11 lakh to fraudsters

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the Information Technology act and further investigations are underway. According to the latest statistics, city police have registered 17,385 cases this year up to October under the Information Technology act including instances of various such frauds.

In 2023, a total of eight cases of cyber fraud involving individuals posing as TRAI representatives were reported. By October 2024, this number had surged to 48 cases, highlighting the growing prevalence of this form of cybercrime.

Awareness sessions held

As senior citizens continue to fall prey to these cyber frauds, the city police have launched dedicated awareness programmes for senior citizens to address cyber frauds, promote digital hygiene, and provide guidance on how to respond if they encounter such situations.

Senior citizens are particularly vulnerable to these types of scams due to limited digital literacy, making them easy targets for fraudsters. There has been a notable rise in cases involving individuals posing as telecom service providers, further underscoring the importance of these educational initiatives.

"With the increasing number of senior citizens falling victim to such frauds, we are focusing on educating them about the basics of cyber safety. They need to understand the risks of anonymous links and calls from unknown numbers, which should never be entertained.

While these cases are on the rise, all the divisions are intensifying efforts to conduct awareness sessions specifically for senior citizens," said a senior police official.

Environment impact assessment should be mandatory

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

HC also directed TEC to pass a separate order on the given 440 trees after assessment. The exercise was to be completed within three weeks.

After the order was passed, the field forest officer of BBMP and TEC members carried out inspections in October and submitted a report.

TEC had a thorough discussion with K-RIDE authorities regarding execution and construction activities without the removal of trees and identifying trees that can be retained on site with respect to alignment, design, and plan. As per the TEC report, no trees out of the 440 inspected have been identified to be retained on site or translocated as they are standing between the project construction zone.

TEC has now suggested the removal of all the 440 trees for which HC had imposed a stay and ordered reexamination.

Experts say the city's green cover cannot be saved unless considerations are made during the design phase.

"TEC probably has carried out the assessment in detail and realised if the project, as per its detailed project report has to be carried forward, these trees need to go. However, the net result is that all 699 trees will be removed. We are not questioning TEC's analysis and order. In all probability, their conclusion is logical, given the circumstances. This goes on to show that care needs to be taken beforehand. Road, rail, or metro alignments have to be considered and reconsidered to save the city's green cover. Currently, for all infrastructure projects, DPRs are already approved," said a city-based tree expert.

Tree activists also underline the need to make environment impact assessment mandatory for all linear projects, including the metro. The Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 by the Government of India exempts all railway and metro rail projects from preparing an EIA document.

"Environment Impact Assessment should be made compulsorily for all agencies. Metro, being a large-scale infrastructure development work, has a massive environmental footprint. However, that is not the case under EIA, 2006. BMRCL must carry out the assessment considering the city undergoing unprecedented loss of green cover," added Devare.

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6 ex-insurance firm staffers held for laptop theft

Six former executives of a private insurance company have been arrested by JP Nagar police for allegedly stealing laptops and other office valuables worth ₹2.4 lakh.

The arrested individuals, identified as Bharath (25), Vishwanath (23), Yuvraj (23), Muttu Selvam (23), Sandeep (21), and Nagendra Prasad (21), had reportedly left the company just 15 days prior due to grievances over salary increments. According to the complaint, the office was locked on the evening of November 12, but the following morning, it was discovered that the backdoor lock had been broken, and five laptops, two laptop bags, chargers, xerox documents, blank cheques, and a DVR had been stolen.

Upon receiving the complaint, the police launched an investigation and inspected the office premises. **BMB**

BDA scam: K'taka govt to recommend Guv to reconsider prosecution of BSY

The Karnataka government has decided to recommend to the Governor for the reconsideration of the granting prosecution against former CM BS Yediyurappa in the alleged BDA scam.

Interestingly, the complaint in this regard was submitted by social activist T.J. Abraham against Yediyurappa. Abraham is one of the three petitioners who petitioned against Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in the alleged Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) scam.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Congress leaders had questioned the integrity of Abraham and called his action fraudulent.

Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs HK Patil stated on Thursday that, TJ Abraham had submitted a petition to the Governor on Nov 19, 2020, against Yediyurappa alleging charges of corruption. The Governor had refused consent for prosecution. The cabinet had discussed the matter in detail.

"The cabinet has decided to recommend to the Governor that he should take back his earlier decision and re-verify the matter. It will also be recommended that under Section 17 A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, he should give consent for the investigation. As per the documents available with us, no reasons were cited for refusal of prosecution by the Governor. Yediyurappa is not the MLA nor the CM presently. The decision that he has taken was as the CM. When the act is done as the CM, then the permission of the Governor will become necessary."

When asked about the Congress government's criticism against Abraham when he lodged a complaint against Siddaramaiah, Patil maintained, "The matter is in the court and I won't discuss. I won't also discuss the individual. The act and action of the personality is important and not the person."

Patil stated: "On Nov 19, 2020, Abraham had filed a complaint before the Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) for an offence punishable under 7,8, 9, 10 and 13 of PCA Act and 120 B of IPC, 3 and 4 of PML Act against Yediyurappa, his family members and associates. The said complaint carried grave and serious allegations of corruption against Yediyurappa and his family members. The allegations are quite serious. Abraham had made allegations in this regard and sought approval by the Governor to investigate Yediyurappa. The Governor has rejected the permission. There are 16 allegations and pointers in his petition." **IANS**

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I Ramesha.H.P S/o Puttathimme Gowda R/o A308, Purva Pavallion, Hebbal, Kempapura, Opp. To Sindhi College, Bengaluru 560024 have changed my name to Ramesh.H.P for all purposes.

I, Anantha Subramanya S N S/o Late Nagaraja S A, R/o No. 828/GC, 21st Cross, Ideal Homes Layout, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bengaluru 560098 I Have changed my name from Anantha Subrahmannya S N to Anantha Subramanya S N vide affidavit no IN-KA80703199781307W dated 29.11.2024 for all the purpose

I Pragnaba Ghanshyamsinh Zala W/O, Gajendra Singh Narayanbhai Jadeja R/o 774 Siri Ground Floor 4th Cross 11th Block, Nagarabhavi 2nd Stage, Bengaluru, 560072, Karnataka, India have changed my name to Pragnaba Gajendra Singh Jadeja.

I Priya Krupashankar W/O Krupa Shankar B C R/O SF1 Ajantha Aroma Akshayanagar Bangalore has changed my name from Priya Venugopal Kadiri to Priya Krupashankar for all future purposes

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Vlogger's murder: Accused nabbed after dramatic multi-state hunt

Police arrested the prime suspect in the murder of a 19-year-old vlogger from Assam in the city after a multi-state manhunt, on Friday.

Maya Gogoi, a vibrant vlogger with a growing following, was staying in a serviced apartment in Indiranagar with Aarav Hanoy, a 21-year-old intern at a private firm earning a salary of ₹15,000.

According to initial investigations, the two met through a dating app and decided to share the serviced apartment. However, their relationship turned violent due to personal disagreements.

In a calculated move, Aarav allegedly ordered a knife and rope from an online delivery service. A heated argument escalated into a brutal attack, leaving Maya with multiple injuries on her head and multiple stabs at chest. "We registered a case under IPC Section 302 for murder.

Two days later after he exited from the serviced apartment, we traced his movements from Raichur to Madhya Pradesh, then Uttar Pradesh, and finally Varanasi, before he returned to Karnataka. Early this morning, around 4 am, we apprehended him in Devanahalli and are currently interrogating him," the DCP of East Division.

After committing the murder, Aarav left the apartment in a panic. CCTV footage captured him walking out of the building, visibly distressed.

He then headed towards Majestic Railway Station, switching off his phone to evade tracking. Senior officials quickly formed three special teams to trace his movements: one dispatched to Kerala, another to North Karnataka, and a third to collect further evidence. **-BMB**

No Cabinet expansion for now

CM rules out immediate expansion, hints at Nagendra's induction later

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday dismissed the possibility of an immediate Cabinet expansion, while simultaneously indicating that former tribal welfare minister B Nagendra would be inducted into the Cabinet at a later date.

"We are not doing it now," Siddaramaiah told reporters, effectively putting to rest speculation about potential changes in the state Cabinet's composition.

When specifically asked about plans to induct Nagendra into the Cabinet, the chief minister said, "We will induct him, but not immediately."

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar echoed similar sentiments earlier in the day, stating that "the situation (for Cabinet expansion) has not come" and that there had been no discussion about filling the lone existing vacancy.

Shivakumar also revealed that the matter of Cabinet expansion had not been discussed with Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge.

Currently, the Siddaramaiah-led Karnataka government's Cabinet comprises 34 ministers, including the chief minister and deputy chief minister, along with 32 other ministerial colleagues. **BMB**

Irrigation projects: CM meets PM

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and requested rectification in short-term farm loan limit, Rs 10,000 crore in financial support and urgent clearances for the Mekedatu Balancing Reservoir and Kalasa Bandhuri projects.

In the meeting in Parliament complex, Siddaramaiah pressed for several key interventions focusing on critical areas, including agriculture, water resources and urban infrastructure.

Deputy Chief Minister and Irrigation Minister D K Shivakumar, Energy Minister K J George and Urban Development Minister Byrathi Suresh accompanied Siddaramaiah to the meeting.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, the Karnataka chief minister said, "We provide credit to 35 lakh farmers. The drastic cut in the short-term agricultural credit limit will impact the agriculture sector and force farmers to depend on private lenders." **PTI**

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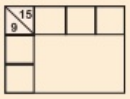
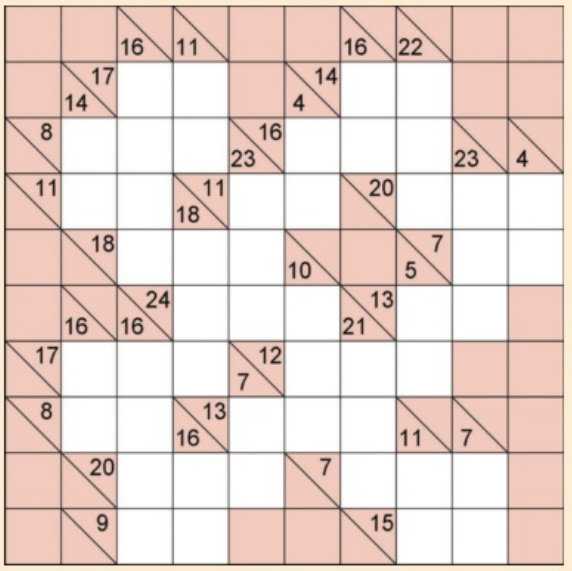
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas



for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



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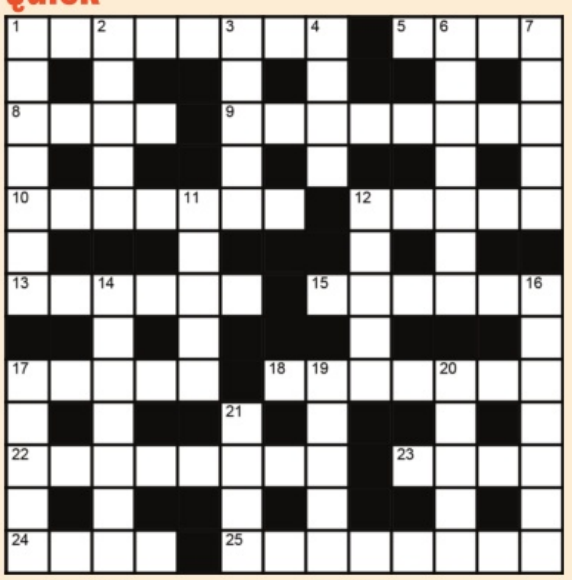


ACROSS

1 Compelled observance of law, etc. (8)
5 By ___ of : by force or means of? (4)
8 Dollar (4)
9 Comes to awareness (8)
10 Accept as probable (7)
12 US novelist (5)
13 Sings like a Swiss Highlander might? (6)
15 Sacredly obscure or secret (6)
17 Loafed (5)
18 Having a pleasant odour (7)
22 50 kms from Bangalore, this area is a favourite for rock climbers (8)
23 Himalayan myth (4)
24 Lacklustre (4)
25 Retired from duty with honour (8)

DOWN

1 Ambassador's premises (7)
2 English football's knockout tournament (2,3)
3 Persian monarch, ___ the Great (5)
4 Bargain; shuffle cards (4)
6 Immediate (7)
7 Famous boxer (5)
11 Greased (5)
12 A culinary herb (5)
14 Quandary (7)
16 Golfers' assistants (7)
17 Owing money? (2,3)
19 Wish evil upon; swear (5)
20 Trick's alternative? (5)
21 Fever (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: S EQUALS P

LFR SWFKZKQL OFRQIG'J OFWWL ZKFRJ OCZJ SVFSQV JCBGM FT LFR BT LFR NFRQI MGFO CFO EVQIFP JCVL IF.

Linemaro

I didn't mean to ogle you,but I'd sure like to Google you

Mindchow

You are not designed for everyone to like you

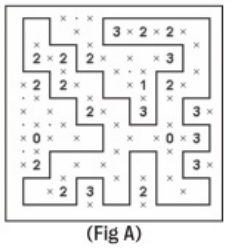
Joke of the day

HOW DO I TURN OFF CAPS LOCK? I ACCIDENTALLY TURNED IT ON YESTERDAY AND I DON'T KNOW HOW TO TURN IT BACK OFF. ALL MY FRIENDS ARE MAD BECAUSE THEY THINK I AM SHOUTING AT THEM OVER INTERNET. PLEASE HELP!!!

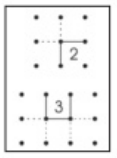
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

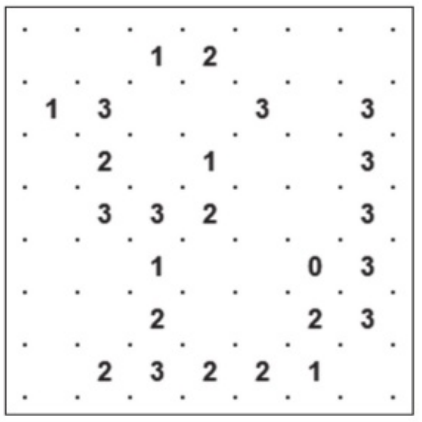


(Fig B) Not Allowed

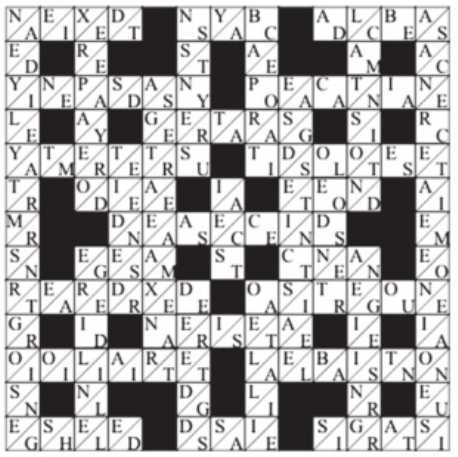
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



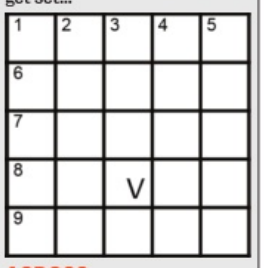
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

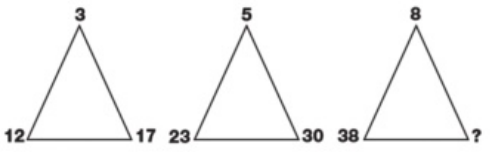
1 Nags F; 6 I Naga; 7 A mule; 8 Or lev; 9 Will T

DOWN

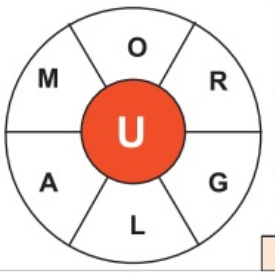
1 Flu ta; 2 Law go; 3 Eva in; 4 I'm gel; 5 Larns

Mensapuzzle

Which number replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; 05 Good; 06 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

				5	2			9
		1					6	
		9	3	7		1	5	
3	4		6	9				
	6						9	
				4	3		2	7
	3	7		2	9	4		
	1					2		
8			7	6				

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 12

3 5 7 7

Medium = 27

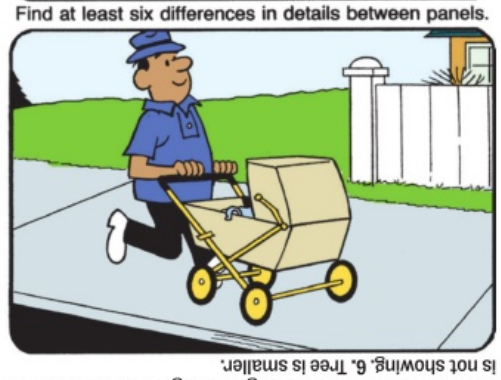
1 4 5 6

Hard = 9

3 7 8 5

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. House is not as wide. 2. Carriage handle is different. 3. Front axle is longer. 4. Leg is moved. 5. Left arm is not showing. 6. Tree is smaller.

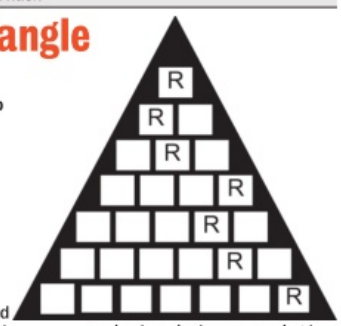
Riddler

Each group of three definitions describes three words that are spelled the same, except for one letter (each group describes a different set of words). Example: king, ring, wing.

1a) a small territorial division of a country
1b) an artillery piece
1c) a deep valley with high steep sides
2a) a hut
2b) to strike with surprise or horror
2c) a husk

Alpha triangle

1 18th letter
2 Concerning
3 "Is" in the plural?
4 Scorch
5 Has on
6 Bets
7 Walk proudly



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye

I YAM TAKIN' THE MILLING BUCKS BACK TO THE BANK!
ME UNGENIE WON'T LIKE IT!!
I'LL TURN THE FAT-ARMED CAMEL DRIVER INTO A PIG!
popeye.com
I DOESN'T WANT ME PAPPY TO GO TO JAIL!
ZAKRACK! MY UNGENIE MAGIC DOESN'T WORK ON HIM!

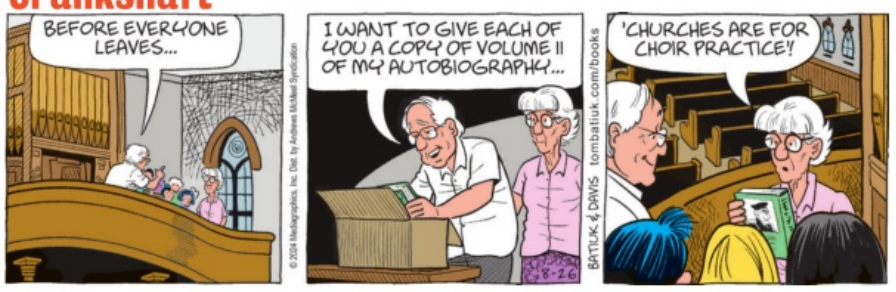
Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

I THINK NERD STUFF CAN BE UNIVERSAL! I CAN USE THAT IN MY JOKES.
YOU SHOULD AT LEAST READ A BOOK ABOUT JOKE-TELLING.
READING A BOOK TO PREPARE? WHO'S THE NERD NOW?
HART OF THE CITY © 2024 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@COMICS.COM/HARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft


BEFORE EVERYONE LEAVES...
I WANT TO GIVE EACH OF YOU A COPY OF VOLUME II OF MY AUTOBIOGRAPHY...
'CHURCHES ARE FOR CHOIR PRACTICE!'
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books
© 2024 Hodgepodge, Inc. Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication
8-26

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20

Today is mixed. You may be unhappy and nervous at the start of the day. Your mood shall improve by the afternoon. Increased vitality will boost your confidence. You must avoid carelessness in financial, professional, and academic decisions and maintain patience to prevent minor disputes with your spouse from escalating. Lovebirds might plan short trips.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20

Today, overspending might cut down your savings. You must be cautious while communicating at work and home. Avoid lending money and making significant decisions regarding real estate or other assets. Try not to shy away from responsibilities and maintain a grounded attitude.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21

Today offers excellent opportunities for networking at social gatherings, which will benefit you in the future. Those in glamour, art, or fashion may consider new professional ventures. Students will excel in their studies. Lovebirds will enjoy delightful moments together.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23

Today, a busy day at work awaits you, but despite the workload, you'll find satisfaction in your tasks. You'll manage your finances wisely and remain polite with family and friends. You may also expect good news from family members, adding joy to your day.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Today is good. Elders' blessings will enhance your confidence. Trust your intuition when making decisions, particularly in financial matters. You may visit a religious place with family. You must keep your arrogance in check to ensure harmony in your domestic life. Students may experience success with some help from destiny.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23

Today, you'll feel content and productive in the morning. But by afternoon, negative emotions might dull your enthusiasm, impacting your work and possibly sparking domestic arguments. You must avoid lending money, as it may be hard to recover. You may also take time for self-analysis and explore your interest in the occult sciences.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22

The moon's blessings will put you in a cheerful mood today. You'll express your romantic side, bringing harmony to your domestic life. Patience will help you excel professionally, and you'll notice better coordination with colleagues and business partners.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22

Today, you'll successfully curb unnecessary expenses, improving your financial balance. You must pay attention to children's health. Singles may experience unexpected progress in marriage prospects. Those in travel, diplomacy, or supply chain roles will thrive. You are advised to be cautious about stomach-related issues.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22

Today, your plans may not yield the desired results at work, leading to frustration. You must avoid making significant investments or decisions in relationships today. Couples and lovebirds should avoid arguments to maintain harmony. Students should focus on consistent study instead of shortcuts.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20

You'll feel more emotional and sensitive today. Postpone real estate investments and pay attention to your parents' health. Delays in your work might occur, but patience will be your ally. Professionally, you may struggle with indecisiveness.

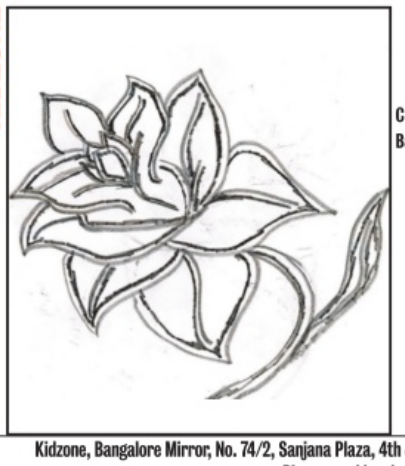
Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

Today, a balanced approach to income and expenses will improve your finances. Your network will play a pivotal role in implementing your plans. Siblings and subordinates will be particularly supportive. You might plan a visit to elders or a religious place.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

Today, high energy levels will make you optimistic and happy. You'll work hard to achieve your goals and might plan an outing with friends and family to celebrate your success. Students are likely to receive good news related to their studies.

KIDZONE



C Kumar
Bangalore

Krupa R,
Bangalore

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

$= -3^{\circ}\sqrt{2}/3-2^{\circ}\sqrt{2}/4+4\sqrt{2}$
$= -\sqrt{2}-\sqrt{2}/2+4\sqrt{2}$
$= 1\sqrt{2}(-1-1/2+4)$
$= \sqrt{2}(4-3/2)$
$= 5/\sqrt{2}$
$= (5\sqrt{2}/2)$
$= (5 \times \sqrt{2}) / (\sqrt{2} \times \sqrt{2})$
$= (5\sqrt{2}) / (\sqrt{2})^2$
$= (5/2)\sqrt{2}$

RIDDLER

1) canton, cannon, canyon &
2) shack, shock, shuck

BULL'S EYE

alum, GLAMOUR, glum, maul, mogul, mural

FAST FIVE

T	W	I	L	L
L	O	V	E	R
U	L	E	M	A
A	G	A	I	N
F	A	N	G	S

STRIKE OUT

N	E	X	T		S	A	C		A	C	E	S		
	E		R		T		A		A					
I	N	A	D	A	Y		P	E	C	T	I	N		
L		Y		G	E	A	R	S		I		C		
A	M	E	E	R	S		I	S	L	O	S	T		
R		D	I	E		A		E	O	N		I		
M		D	E	S	C	E	N	D				M		
S		G	E	M		T		T	E	A		O		
T	A	R	R	E	D		A	I	R	G	U	N		
	I		N		H			N						
S	U	P	P	O	S	E		T	W	A	I	N		
	A		U		L			T		O				
B	U	C	K		R	E	A	L	I	S	E	S		
M		A		Y		E		N		Y				
E	N	F	O	R	C	E	D		D	I	N	T		
D	R	A	B		E	M	E	R	I	T	U	S		

QUICK

47. Starting at the top on the left, and working in rows across the 3 triangles, values increase by 2, then 3, then 4 etc.

MENSA PUZZLE

You probably wouldn't worry about what people think of you if you could know how seldom they do.

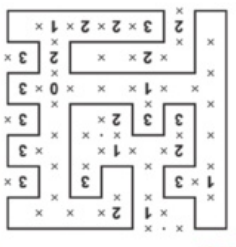
QUOTE UNCODE

6	7	3	1	5	2	8	9	4
2	5	1	9	8	4	7	6	3
4	8	9	3	7	6	1	5	2
3	4	2	6	9	7	5	8	1
7	6	5	2	1	8	3	9	4
1	9	8	5	4	3	6	2	7
5	3	7	8	2	9	4	1	6
9	1	6	4	3	5	2	7	8
8	2	4	7	6	1	9	3	5

SUDOKU

R, Re, Are, Sear, Wears, Wagers, Swagger.

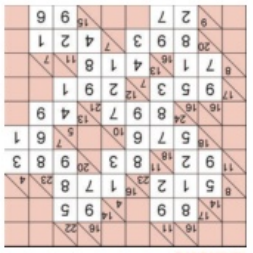
ALPHA TRIANGLE



LOOP

GO FIGURE

Easy
3 + 7 – 5 + 7 = 12
Medium
5 x 4 + 1 + 6 = 27
Hard
5 – 7 + 3 + 8 = 9



KAKURO

Volume No 17, Issue No 047 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/22411 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by R.J. Prakashan at No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011 and printed by him at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 560 099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru - 560 011, Email : mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon - responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

Cryptic clue — Amid her legal dispute with Dhanush, Nayanthara shared a cryptic post on Instagram. She shared: "Karma Says!!! When you destroy someone's life with lies Take it as a loan, it will come back to you with interest"

All praise

Rashmika says she was nervous during her first meeting with Allu Arjun

The much-anticipated trailer for 'Pushpa 2' was launched in Mumbai on Friday. Allu Arjun and Rashmika Mandanna made a stylish entrance, captivating fans and the media. Their presence heightened the excitement surrounding the film, which has generated significant buzz ahead of its release.

At an event, Rashmika opened up about her first meeting with Allu Arjun, revealing how nervous she felt. The actress recalled, "I was so nervous meeting him, and I was like, How do I react to sir? He's been a superstar for such a long time, so I was like, Okay, now I don't know. I don't know how to react, I don't know how to behave, and all of that, but that was the first day, that was the first introduction, but today standing here in front of sir, his family, his home, so the five-year journey has been so different with a lot of, you know, a lot of emotional writing, I should say, but today here we are, and he is always going to be super special."

Rashmika Mandanna praised Allu Arjun, stating, "No matter how many words I use, it's all too short for him. In simple terms, he is a genius."

Allu Arjun's 'Pushpa 2: The Rule' is the highly anticipated sequel to the 2021 pan-India hit 'Pushpa: The Rise'. Directed by Sukumar, the film features Allu Arjun reprising his role as the titular anti-hero, alongside Rashmika Mandanna and Fahadh Faasil. Set to be released on December 5, 2024, the film has generated significant buzz.

—ETimes

Party with friends

Bollywood actress Vaani Kapoor had a party at home, where she was joined by her friends Aditya Seal, Anushka and Akanksha Ranjan. Vaani took to Instagram stories, where she re-shared a video by Akanksha. In the clip, the guests along with the host are heard singing "Na Tum Jano Na Hum" sung by Lucky Ali and R. Ramya. The track is from the 2000 blockbuster "Kaho Naa Pyaar Hai." Akanksha wrote: "When Vaani Kapoor forces you to have Qawwali night." To which Vaani replied: "Hahahaha liar, say you had fun." On the work front, Vaani has just wrapped up the London schedule of the romantic comedy 'Abir Gulaal' starring Fawad Khan.

A source had confirmed that the film's London schedule is wrapping up today (Monday). 99.9 percent they will not be shooting in India. It is not known as of now as to where they will be shooting next. It was in September, when the shooting for the film commenced in London. The film is being directed by Aarti S Bagdi, who had back then offered a glimpse into the storyline and said that the film is about love and healing.

—ETimes

Deep, dark dive

Jalandhar

2.5 RATING ★★½☆☆

- **DIRECTOR** Vishnu V PrasannaG
- **ACTORS** Pramod Shetty, Rushika Raj, Bala Rajwadi, Step Up Loki, Arohitha Gowda
- **Duration** 110 minutes
- **Certification** U/A

Director Vishnu V Prasanna has selected a unique story for this movie that throws some light on the dark side of divers who eke out a living by stealing jewellery from people drowned in the Cauvery River.

The movie is about Disco Ravi (Step Up Loki) and his friends whose profession is retrieving bodies of people who have fallen into Cauvery River by accident or as suicide. The director introduces Police Inspector Abhijith (Pramod Shetty), an encounter specialist. Abhijith kills Ravi, the younger brother of MLA Anjanappa (Bala Rajwadi) and gets suspended. Abhijith's wife Tejaswini (Rushika Raj), a journalist, visits Madhuvatti to investigate the drowning of people in Cauvery River. She is found dead. Who is the killer and what happens to Abhijith is what the movie Jalandhar is about.

As far as the performances of the actors are concerned, the introduction of Pramod Shetty, as an encounter specialist, is good.

However, the director failed to justify how a police officer, placed under suspension, carries a service revolver and fires a few bullets. It is not clear why the director included such unconvincing scenes. The other irony is that two-wheeler riders, including police inspectors and police constables, do not bother to wear helmets even though it is mandatory.

The consolation is the chemistry between Step Up Loki and Arohita Gowda. Both have done excellent work. Their dialogues, dancing skills and gestures are good. Their characters have different shades. Rushika Raj, as a social activist and journalist, is convincing. Bala Rajwadi, as a corrupt politician, provides good support. Character actor Raghu Ramanakoppa represents police constables who do not hesitate to thrive on dead bodies and exploit hapless villagers.

Songs are good. Music director Jatin Darshan deserves a pat on the back.

It is worth a watch for crime thriller lovers.

—Y Maheswara Reddy